

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400 Boston, MA 02114 (617) 626.1520 Fax (617) 626.1509



December 8, 2004 MarineFisheries Advisory

MARINEFISHERIES SEEKS INPUT ON POTENTIAL CHANGES TO COMMERCIAL FLUKE, SCUP, & BLACK SEA BASS FISHERIES

Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 21st

The Division of Marine Fisheries (*MarineFisheries*) is hosting a public meeting on December 21st to discuss potential changes to trip limits, seasons and other rules used in the commercial summer flounder (fluke), scup, and black sea bass fisheries. A meeting will be held at the Canal Club Function Facility located in the Best Western Bridge Bourne Hotel at 1PM on Tuesday, December 21st. Directions to the meeting location can be found at the end of this notice.

MarineFisheries has received many suggestions for changes to certain rules governing the fisheries for these three quota-managed species. This meeting would allow informal discussions with commercial fishermen, dealers, and other interested parties about current regulations and potential changes to possession limits, seasons, and other rules that may improve the conduct, performance and economic benefits derived from these fisheries.

Input gathered at this meeting will be presented to the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission for potential public hearing topics for future rulemaking.

Currently, these three commercial fisheries are managed in state waters through an Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) crafted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Management Board. As a member of ASMFC, Massachusetts has been allocated annual state-specific commercial quotas for summer flounder and black sea bass, and scup (May-October only).

Directions to Canal Club Function Facility

(100 Trowbridge Rd, Bourne)

From Boston:

- Take MA-3 S. MA-3 S becomes US-1 S
- Merge onto MA-24 S via EXIT 4 on the LEFT toward BROCKTON
- Merge onto I-495 S via EXIT 14A toward MIDDLEBORO/CAPE COD
- I-495 S becomes MA-25 E. MA-25 E becomes US-6 E/MA-28 S
- Enter next roundabout and take 1st exit onto TROWBRIDGE RD

From the South:

- Take US-6 E/MA-28 S
- Enter next roundabout and take 1st exit onto TROWBRIDGE RD.